

RANGE 4 SOP

10 February 2005

Known-distance Range Standing Operating Procedures (SOP)

RANGE CONTROL MISSION STATEMENT

TO SUPPORT THE COMMANDERS INTENT BY SCHEDULING, ADVISING, AND ASSISTING TRAINERS IN PROVIDING HIGHLY REALISTIC TRAINING WITHOUT COMPROMISING SAFETY. MONITOR THE ENVIROMENTAL IMPACT OF TRAINING ON FORT GORDON. CONDUCT CERTIFICATION TRAINING TO THE UNIT CADRE.

Administrative Procedures

Physical Location: Range 4 is physically located east of Range Road.

Grid location: LS 8527094590

Type of Range: Range 4 is primarily used for:

- (1) Known Distance fire
- (2) Competition Fire

Types of Weapon & Ammunition Authorized:

Weapons:

M21, M24 Sniper Rifle

Ammunition:

7.62 ball, 5.56

Scheduling Range: This range is scheduled through the Range Facility Management Scheduling System (RFMSS). All ranges are scheduled by your S3 utilizing a RFMSS unit customer account.

OIC/RSO/MEDIC Range Check-in procedures: OIC/RSO/MEDIC will report to Range Control at the same time to sign for the range. They will provide the following documents upon arrival at Range Control:

OIC: Current Range certification card

RSO: Current Range certification card

MEDIC: Current Medical certification CLS (Combat Life Saver) or higher and Medical Aid bag.

Day of Range: OIC/RSO/MEDIC will arrive together to sign for the range. (Without these three and the proper documents the range will not be signed out)

Range Firing Hours: 0730-1630

Range Availability: Range 1 is available seven days a week. Weekend firing and extended range hours, must be requested during the RFMSS scheduling phase. Request permission as soon as possible if you need to go past 1630 to complete your firing.

Other Training Activities: **NO other training is authorized on the range.**

Radio Communications: Primary means of communication with range control is the Motorola radio issued to the OIC. Radios must be used on and used only for communications with Range Control.

- a. Request "hot" time
- b. Make hourly radio checks every hour on the hour
- c. Immediately "cease fire" anytime there is a problem on the range and contact Range Control.
- d. Continuously monitor Range Control frequency
- e. Request "cold" time
- f. Request Range Control to come out and clear you off the Range
- g. Use of the Radios for anything other than communicating with Range Control is strictly forbidden.

Range Control Provides:

- a. PA system.
- b. Red & White safety paddles for each line safety.
- c. Metal rods for rodding soldiers on and off the range and firing line.
- d. Ammunition point.
- e. Targets in target shed.

Unit Provides:

- a. Two (2) 1-A:10B:C [dry chemical] fire extinguisher.
- b. Combat lifesaver, dedicated emergency vehicle and medical aid bag.
- c. Plastic trash bags, toilet paper
- d. Hearing protection.
- e. Drinking water.
- f. TM and FM on all weapon systems being fired.
- g. AR 385-63, Range & Training Safety [one copy in range book]
- h. White method for designating safety personnel

RECORD FIRE SCORECARDS: The unit will provide its own record firer scorecards.

RANGE OPERATIONS

Ricochet Hazard: It is of paramount importance that only authorized weapon systems, ammunition and target placement are utilized on this range. From time-to-time ball ammunition will ricochet off of the range starting grass or brush fires. Soldiers will be briefed on the safety factors and hazards of fighting brush fires. "Safety first, always."

Target Placement: The unit will put the target frames in place before firing begins and remove them once firing has been completed for the day.

Firing Positions Authorized:

- a. Prone
- b. Prone supported
- c. Prone unsupported

Night Fire: Night firing is not authorized on Range 4.

Feedback Targets:

Other Uses: No other uses authorized.

Pyrotechnics Use: Pyrotechnics are not authorized for use on the range.

Special Range Planning Assistance: Special range planning assistance is available from the Range Control staff. We will assist you in every way that we can to help make your training experience safe, realistic and effective.

Basic Weapons Safety Procedures

The following basic weapons safety procedures will be observed:

- a. When arriving and departing the range.
- b. When arriving and departing the firing line.
- c. While weapons are stacked with a guard posted within arms reach.

WEAPONS SAFETY BRIEFING

It is the responsibility of the unit **OIC** to ensure that the **RSO** conducts a “basic weapons safety briefing” for all personnel, as a group, upon arrival at the range. Also, provide a briefing for all persons arriving after the initial briefing has been given.

PMI Instruction: Behind the firing line PMI (weapon drills, individual instruction, manipulation of weapons, aiming of weapons) will be supervised by an NCO and conducted in designated PMI areas only.

Hearing Protection: Appropriate hearing protection is required for all personnel, including workers and visitors, while within **50 meters** of the firing line.

Tracer Ammunition: check with range control

Open Pit Fires: Open pit campfires are not allowed on or near the range.

Gate Guard Requirements: From time-to-time unauthorized persons or visitors may attempt to gain access to the range. The gate guard will be posted at all times while the range is occupied to aid in preventing the unauthorized access. At no time will the gate guard attempt to stop **RANGE CONTROL** or any **EMERGENCY** vehicle from gaining access to the range.

Environmental Considerations: Vehicle refueling operations will

not be conducted on this range. All tactical vehicles will have a drip pan under the vehicle when it is parked. If a spill occurs report it to Range Control immediately. Bring plastic trash bags; take your trash with you. Using unit must clean the latrine prior to departing the range.

Pyrotechnics, Blanks, CS Gas: At no time will pyrotechnics, blanks, or CS gas be used on the range.

Sleeping on Range: Sleeping on the range is not allowed. It is pertinent that all soldiers stay awake and alert to help maintain a safe environment on the range.

Animals on Range: Unit mascots, such as **dogs**, are not allowed on the range.

End of Firing Comments: We encourage all **OICs** and **RSOs** to make constructive written comments on the second page of their **Range Checklist** at the completion of firing. Your input is valuable to this operation. Help us improve “**your**” range.

Range Safety Violations: It is not our intent to “**find things wrong**” with your range but rather to reduce and mitigate hazardous unsafe conditions. **OICs** and **RSOs** operating in an unsafe manner will cause their range to be closed - with the possibility of being decertified. All range safety violations will be forwarded to your higher headquarters and to the Garrison Commander through DPTM.

What Does Unsafe Mean: This can be explained quite simply: Operating your range in a manner that creates a dangerous situation for others; operating outside of weapons safety standards set forth in AR 385-63, USASC&FG Reg 210-21 this SOP and other applicable FM and TM guidelines.

OIC/RSO/NCOIC Duties: General duties of the unit **OIC**, **RSO**, and **NCOIC**. See AR 385-63, Chapter 4, 4-3, 4-5.

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OIC Duties: The **OIC** [**E7 or above**] is responsible for activities that take place on all areas of the range not just the firing line. The **OIC** will stay on the range at all times.

RSO Duties: The **RSO** [**E6 or above**] is specifically responsible for

weapons safety on all portions of the range.

Line Safety NCO's: [CPL AND ABOVE] safety duties:

- (1) Assist the **RSO** with firing line safety procedures.
- (2) Observe and mitigate unsafe conditions on the firing line.
- (3) Utilize red and white safety paddles for command and control.
- (4) Rodding weapons on/off the range and firing line.
- (5) Weapons safety checks.
- (6) Bleacher safety.
- (7) Providing safety related assistance for soldiers.

NCOIC: normally runs the range tower by announcing fire commands and taking directions from the **OIC**.

Red Ammunition Amnesty Box: Located in the motor pool at Range Control Headquarters.

This box is not intended for unit trash, brass or ammunition that is to be turned back into the ASP.

Munitions: Distribute small arms ammunition to troops only on the ready line or firing line. Cover all ammunition to protect it from the elements and direct rays of the sun. When any round or item of ammunition has malfunctioned further use of rounds or items will be suspended. The OIC/RSO will turn in the LOT #, DODIC, and number of unserviceable rounds to the Post Ammo Manager located at range control.

Munitions Amnesty Turn in Policy: Range Control will arrange Explosive Ordnance disposal support. Contact Range Control fire desk at 706-791-5005/5008 or by LMR RADIO. If you cannot contact Range Control, call the MP desk at 706-791-4380.

Fire-Fighting in Training Areas: Because fire potential is so great at Fort Gordon, all field units will be prepared to assist in fighting any fire which might occur. The OIC of firing issues an order to cease-fire, notify Range Control, move soldiers to a safe area, and take all commands from range control. At no time will soldiers enter the impact area to fight the fire, unless under the supervision of the fire department, or forestry. This is a year round requirement.

Upon discovering a fire outside the impact area, contact Range

Control. The unit commander/OIC of an exercise will commit personnel and equipment available to fighting the fire, without soldiers being in any danger, and will continue to fight the fire until properly relieved.

HIGH HAZARD IMPACT AREA

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At no time will soldiers enter into a high hazard impact area (Artillery Impact Area). A high hazard impact area is permanently designated within the training complex and used to contain sensitive high explosive ammunition and explosives and the resulting fragments, debris, and components. High hazard impact areas are normally established as part of dedicated impact areas where access is limited and strictly controlled due to the extreme hazard of DUD ordnance (i.e., 40mm HE and other highly sensitive ammunition and explosives).

Duties of the OIC

1. Range 4 is not a difficult range to supervise or operate. Range Control staff will provide hands-on training and advice. The OIC operates and runs the range. The RSO supervises all activities on the firing line.

Initial check-in procedures:

a. Before coming to Range Control check with your company training NCO/battalion S3 to ensure that your unit has been scheduled for Range 2.

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b. Check-in at Fort Gordon Range Control Headquarters no earlier than 0700 on the day of the range.

c. Read Range SOP and sign for all equipment needed for the operation of the range.

Day of the Range:

a. On the scheduled date go directly to the Range Control Headquarters and check-in with the range cadre.

b. Ensure that your radio operator conducts radio checks every hour on the hour (after you receive a hot time) and monitor Range Control frequency at all times.

c. Set up your range tower operation and ensure that the tower NCOIC is familiar with fire commands and qualification procedures.

d. Follow weapon qualification scoring procedures outlined in FM 23-35.

e. Ensure that the RSO provides a range safety briefing for all soldiers that occupy the range.

f. Ensure that the RSO provides a range safety briefing for all soldiers that occupy the range.

g. Request a "hot" time from Range Control. Notify Range Control anytime you "cease fire", and request a "cold" time once firing has been completed.

Duties of the RSO

1. The primary duties of the Range Safety Officer (RSO) are outlined in AR 385-63, Chapter 4, and this SOP. Primarily the RSO assists the OIC in maintaining and enforcing range safety standards not just on the firing line but all portions of the range.

Road Guard Location & Duties

Road Guard Duties: One road guard post is located at the main entrance to the range. Road guard duties:

- a. Stop unauthorized military and civilian personnel from entering the range.
- b. Instruct all visitors to report to Range Control Headquarters.

Fort Gordon Range Operations

Unit OIC/RSO Checklist

RANGE SCHEDULING & PLANNING

- ⌚ Contact your Bn S3 / training NCO and confirm: **(1)** Range location, **(2)** Weapon system, **(3)** Munitions type, **(4)** Firing hours, and **(5)** Range Contract (control) Number.
- ⌚ Obtain and review **FM's** and **TM's** on weapon systems to be supervised.
- ⌚ Arrange for Combat Lifesaver (.50 cal and below), emergency vehicle w/ litter.
- ⌚ **All Ranges require one certified (E7 or above for OIC duties), one certified E6 or above for RSO duties. Non-certified (E4 CPL or above) Line Safety NCOs.**
- ⌚ Review **AR 385-63, Chapter 4**, Range Safety Duties and responsibilities for OIC / RSO / NCOIC, FG Regulation 210-21 section 2.
- ⌚ Ensure that ammunition NCO orders and draws correct types of ammunition for your range. **Ensure that RFMSS reflects correct ammo type.**

RANGE RECON & CHECK-IN – AT LEAST ONE DAY PRIOR TO TRAINING EVENT

- ⌚ Recons will be coordinated at least 24 hours prior to the range.
- ⌚ OIC, RSO, and Medic will **jointly** check-in with Range Control on the day of range.
- ⌚ Read and research **(1)** Local range SOP.
- ⌚ Do the following: **(1)** Conduct recon of range, training area and billeting facilities, **(2)** Request fire hazard conditions, **(3)** Confirm tracer usage, and authority to use pyrotechnics [CS gas] with Range Control, **(4)** Sign for Fire barrels.
- ⌚ Sign for range, training area, and facilities. Make final coordination for any special targetry or other special needs.
- ⌚ **Special Targetry Scenarios** require check-in and coordination at least **45 days** in advance. Will target carpentry work be required?

BEFORE DEPARTING FOR RANGE

- ⌚ Test your SINGARS communications system (calibrated - in the clear) **oneday** before you go to the range.
- ⌚ Ensure that your ammunition-laden vehicles are properly placard.
- ⌚ See **AR 385-63 - TM 9-1300-206** explosives safety criteria for training operations on firing ranges.

- 🕒 Assemble and test space heaters at unit rear. Follow winterized fuel requirements. GP medium tents can be placed on ranges.
- 🕒 Obtain two **1-A:10B:C** (dry chemical) fire extinguishers, water cans and shovels for fire fighting.
- ON DAY OF RANGE * If you need to cancel your range please call Range Scheduling Office 791-5005/5008**
- 🕒 On scheduled day the OIC, RSO, and Medic, must sign in at Range Control before occupation of the range.
- 🕒 Brief soldiers on range safety procedures, and (Red Box) ammunition amnesty program. Brief road guards.
- 🕒 When you are ready to fire call Range Control and ask for a **"HOT" time**. Ensure 17 point checklist is completed, medic and vehicle is on sight, red range flag(s) are hoisted and down range [SDZ] is clear before firing.
- 🕒 Monitor the radio at all times, make hourly radio checks with Range Control
- 🕒 Immediately Notify , OIC of any unusual incidents such as: **(1)** Civilian encroachment on range, **(2)** Accidents, **(3)** Injuries, **(4)** Malfunctioning weapons & munitions, **(5)** Rounds off the range, and **(6)** UXO **(7)** RSO monitors range safety,
- COMPLETION OF FIRING**
- 🕒 Call Range Control for **"COLD"** time. Report number of personnel trained, rounds fire by DODAC type of Round.
- 🕒 Provide the following information to Range: **(1)** number and types of rounds fired, **(2)** Number of Duds or misfires, and **(3)** Number of personnel trained. **Do not** depart range until properly cleared by Range Control supervisory personnel. Please provide written comments on back of RUDF.
- 🕒 Police all portions of the firing line, gun positions, battle positions, and concurrent training areas.
- 🕒 Please provide Range Control with **written** [positive or negative] comments. Let us know about unsafe conditions or damaged facilities.

FORT GORDON RANGE OPERATIONS TELEPHONE NUMBERS

RANGE MANAGEMENT SECTION

BLDG. #482 RANGE ROAD

Range Operations Manager, Mr. Matt Kinley 791-5005

RANGE CONTROL CENTER

BLDG # 482 RANGE ROAD, FORT GORDON

Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM), MS Leslie Parris 791-9935

MATT KINLEY
CHIEF OF OPERATION
Range Control, DPTMS